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New Beginnings

Andrew Torigian



AMAA NEWS

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COVER PICTURE

Los Angeles area

Orphan & Child Care Committee members

“When a great crowd gathered and people from town after town came to him, he said in a parable: “A sower went out to sow his seed; and as he sowed, some fell on the path and was trampled on, and the birds of the air ate it up. Some fell on the rock; and as it grew up, it withered for lack of moisture. Some fell among thorns, and the thorns grew with it and choked it. Some fell into good soil, and when it grew, it produced a hundredfold.” (Luke 8:4-8).

This parable specifically tells us what we should do as followers of Christ and more. We ought to sow the seeds of God’s righteousness. We are assured that some will definitely fall on good soil. Perhaps we should also do more. Help improve the situation with the seeds that fall on the path by adding soil to it, that fall on the rocks by watering it, that fall within the thorns by removing the thorns from it.

The Armenian Missionary Association of America continues its mission and service ministry with this determination. Our aim is to make sure the seeds take root and grow to bear fruit.

Recently, as part of reorganizing and consolidating its efforts in our homeland Armenia, AMAA purchased a property in Yerevan – the former U.S. Embassy Building, which will serve as its new headquarters and at the same time will consolidate the Evangelical Theological Academy, the AMAA Medical Center and the Armenian Evangelical Church of Yerevan. We believe that this move will not only help facilitate our services but also will help make our services more efficient and effective.

This new undertaking was made with faith relying on God and on the support of our members, friends and those who trust the AMAA and believe in the future of our homeland. Together we can make a difference, and our efforts will help save as many sown seeds as possible. This will be a signal that we believe in the transforming power of Christianity and the strength of the Armenian people.

In the coming days, the AMAA Board of Directors will embark on a major capital fund-raising campaign to help alleviate the huge burden of this new undertaking and also to undertake a few other vital projects aimed to help our people in the homeland Armenia and in the Diaspora. Most importantly, it will help spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ and share God’s love with our people.

We thank you for your ardent prayers and for your faithful and generous support. □

Armenians in Syria Appreciate AMAA's Support

About 150,000 Armenians lived in Syria in the mid 1980's, roughly 75% living in Aleppo, another 20% in the capital of Damascus, and the remainder scattered in other cities and towns like Latakia, Kessab and Homs. During the last two decades, however, and due to both economic hardships and concerns about the political uncertainty in the area, many Armenians emigrated. Still there is a vibrant Armenian community and they are the largest unassimilated group in Syria, retaining their own customs and traditions, worshipping in their churches, maintaining their schools and most importantly keeping their Armenian Christian heritage.

AMAA Field Director Mr. Dikran Youmshakian's second stop during his recent trip to the Middle East was Syria. The purpose of this visit was to assess the needs of our community in Syria, review the ongoing programs there, and upon return to the US, create more awareness of the needs of our people there. Driving north from Lebanon, Mr. Youmshakian first visited the city of Latakia on the Mediterranean. There are about 5,000 Armenians in this port city. Dr. Levon Zenian is one prominent member of this community and is a long-time friend and supporter of the AMAA. Dr. Zenian is a graduate of the American University of Beirut and he is a specialized dermatologist (studied in London). He has a

very modest clinic serving a community with humble means. Dr. Zenian is a true Christian and he believes in tithing, except Dr. Zenian keeps only what he needs and gives the rest to our homeland in Armenia through the AMAA. His generosity and his loving and caring heart touches the lives of 220 children and families that he sponsors in Armenia and Karabagh each year. He does not only give most of what he has, but also carefully follows both the physical and spiritual progress of his sponsored children.

Driving north from Latakia, the next major stop was Kessab with its seven villages, a historic area inhabited by Armenians and home for many prominent Kessabtzis. Welcoming the AMAA's Field Director in Kessab were Rev. Harout Selimian, the head of the Armenian Evangelical Community in Syria, and the two young Armenian Evangelical pastors serving in Kessab, Reverends Hagop Sarkissian and Sevag Trashian. Kessab, today, is so different from the past, as the entire region has been developed with apartment buildings, hotels and restaurants. It has become a major summer attraction. Unfortunately,

many Kessabtzis, especially most from the young generation, have moved out seeking employment. Many had moved to the Arab Gulf States.

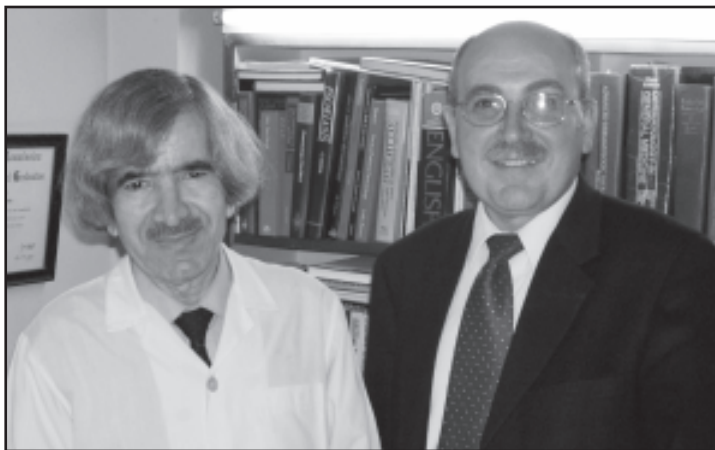
The Armenian Evangelical Martyrs' School in Kessab which was built in 1852 today has 72 students and the principal is Mrs. Ani Apelian. In 2003, a computer lab and library were added. The school is a very important place with its historical value and presence. KCHAG Kessab is the summer camp. During the summer season, several camp programs are organized for children, youth and adults. AMAA supports both the school and the camp financially. The Armenian Evangelical Community Center (recently renovated through the generosity of Dr. Michael Missakian of Los Angeles, CA) will soon serve the community and will house guest preachers and visitors.



Teachers' Training Seminar at Bethel Church



The Armenian Embassy Building in Aleppo, Syria made available by the Armenian Evangelical Community of Syria



Dr. Levon Zenian, faithful AMAA supporter with Field Director, Mr. Dikran Youmshakian

The two-hour trip from Kessab to Aleppo was smooth except for the heavy traffic in downtown Aleppo. Aleppo is the major Syrian city where most Armenians settled after they were deported from their land during the Armenian Genocide. There are four active Armenian Evangelical Churches in Aleppo – Bethel Church, Emmanuel Church, Martyrs’ Church and Church of Christ. Two Armenian Evangelical and one Syriac School serve the Aleppo Community. The Armenian Evangelical Bethel School was built in 1923. The school has 199 students. Over the last several years the student population in this school has increased tremendously. Armenian Evangelical Emmanuel School was built in 1926. The school has 990 students. The Syriac Evangelical School which is part of the Armenian Evangelical School system in Syria has 72 students. The schools in Aleppo also depend on the financial aid of the AMAA, and those individuals who sponsor the children.

The Armenian Evangelical Community in Syria has dedicated one building at Aleppo College to house the Armenian Embassy. The honorable Ambassador Mr. Armen Melkonian expressed his appreciation to the Armenian Evangelicals for this gesture and for the support they provide to our homeland Armenia. During his conversation with the Field Director, Mr. Melkonian recognized the valuable service AMAA provides to our community in Syria and highly appreciated AMAA’s missionary work in Armenia.

The visit to the Armenian Old Age Home in Aleppo and the conversation with its director Dr. Khachig Stepanian and the residents of the Home made clear the valuable service the center provides to the community.

The AREVIG Armenian Center run by Armenian Evangelicals in cooperation with the sister churches serves the children youth in Aleppo with extra curriculum activities.

Rev. Selimian, the pastor of the Armenian Evangelical Bethel Church, has dedicated tireless efforts to support the youth, not only helping them as they grow and receive education, but also in terms of assisting them to obtain low-income housing. Such help is crucial and is very much appreciated, as apartments are too expensive to buy or rent. The Bethel church serves the community through various ongoing ministries such as a Soup Kitchen that feeds the needy and hungry; Cafeteria Ministry,



Children’s Camp at Kchag, Kessab

where families gather to enjoy warm fellowship; Music Ministry with the Yerakhdik Choir; and Children’s Ministry where children experience God’s love through various after-school and summer activities. The Christian Education and Resource Center at Bethel Church offers leadership training and seminars for Sunday school teachers, youth leaders and lay preachers. The Center also provides the youth with the opportunity to take foreign language courses and computer training.

Most of the difficulties experienced in Lebanon unfortunately also apply to neighboring Syria, as political uncertainty has taken its toll on the economy. Inflation is high, as is the percentage of unemployment. Many families have fallen below the poverty line making it crucial for them to receive social and relief help. The Social Service Center in Aleppo needs much more funding to meet the ever-increasing needs of the poor families.

Outside Aleppo and two other areas where Armenians are concentrated are in the capital city of Damascus and the city of Homs. The Armenian Evangelical Church and Armenian Evangelical School of Damascus, are active with a young pastor Rev. Datev Basmajian serving there. Mr. Samir Ya’kko is the principal of the school. Not many Armenian Evangelicals are in Homs, yet a small congregation continues to worship there.

The AMAA’s support of Armenians in Syria includes the much appreciated Child Education Sponsorship Program through which an annual contribution of \$200 helps the community to keep yet one more Armenian student in Armenian school. Along with this program, AMAA provides relief



The new computer lab at the Bethel School

aid directly to poor families, through the church supported ministries, through the Armenian Old Age Home and through the Progressive Association for the Blind. AMAA also supports youth ministries, including organizing summer camps in KCHAG. Aid is also provided to the churches and Christian workers.

The needs of Armenians in Syria are on the rise and perhaps will accelerate as the area continues to experience political conflicts and economic hardship. To help our brothers and sisters in Syria is a burden that we, as their caring compatriots, carry and share. Most of all, these areas need our ardent prayers especially praying for everlasting peace. Those who are interested in supporting AMAA ministries in Syria can contact the AMAA office at 31 W. Century Road, Paramus, NJ 07652 or call the AMAA at 201-265-2607. □

Haigazian University Board of Trustees Meets in Beirut

On May 1, 2006, after completing a successful day of meetings with the Board of Trustees, during which the future academic and development plans of the university were discussed, the president of Haigazian University, Rev. Dr. Paul Haidostian hosted a special dinner of fellowship in hotel Le Bristol, Hamra.

In attendance were the U.S. Ambassador to Lebanon, Jeffrey Feltman, the Ambassador of the Republic of Armenia, Vahan Der Ghevontian and his spouse, the Public Affairs Officer of the US Embassy, Juliet Wurr, the Executive Director of the Armenian Missionary Association of America, Andrew Torigian, the President of the Union of the Armenian Evangelical Churches in the Near East, Rev. Megrdoch Karagoezian, members of the board, and the academic and administrative leadership of the University.

During dinner, President Haidostian acknowledged the vigorous efforts of the Board members, the support and friendship of the US Embassy, as he congratulated the Armenian Ambassador for his appointment to Lebanon.

Ambassador Feltman was struck by the real family spirit of the evening, as he considered the event a celebration of Armenians, Lebanese and Americans gathered for the sake of Haigazian University. He expressed his admiration of Haigazian University in promoting a tolerant, multi-confessional society, respectful of the rights of minorities and applauded Haigazian's role as a strong voice for American values, for freedom and democracy, education and service.

The Haigazian University Women's Auxiliary (LA), represented by its chairwoman Joyce Stein and 3 other members, donated a generous amount of US\$100,000 towards the funding of the new building project of the University.

On accepting the donation, the president expressed his gratitude by presenting the ladies a plaque which acknowledged the auxiliary's 43rd year of unconditional dedication in supporting needy Haigazian students. □



Haigazian University Board of Trustees.



(l to r) Teny Hasserdjian (Chair of HU Women's Auxiliary of Lebanon), Grace Kurkjian, Julie Aharonian, Joyce Philibosian Stein (Chair of HU Women's Auxiliary of Los Angeles), Rev. Dr. Paul Haidostian and Sirvart Mouradian.



MINISTRY SPOTLIGHT

Armenian Evangelical Church of Plovdiv

The Armenian Evangelical Church of Plovdiv is one of the five active Armenian Protestant churches in Bulgaria. The other four churches are in Sofia, Varna, Russe and Burgass.. The church in Plovdiv was founded in 1925 by Rev. Dikran Shahveledian, who was called to serve in Bulgaria by the German Hilfsbund Mission. In 1922 some Armenians, among them Evangelicals, who had escaped the persecutions in Turkey had settled in Plovdiv. They held worship services in the Bulgarian Evangelical Church of Plovdiv, and later organized themselves as a church with Rev. Shahveledian as the first pastor. He was born in 1861 in Amasia, and had studied in the seminary of Basel (Switzerland). Before coming to Plovdiv, he had served for seven years in St. Louis (U.S.), where a colony of Germans was established. He served in Plovdiv until 1936, and died in 1956.

Rev. Isahak Keshishian was the second pastor of the church. He was born in 1903 in Yosgat. He had studied theology in Germany, and later in the American-Bulgarian seminary. First he was appointed assistant

preacher and in 1936 he took over as pastor. He was ordained in 1937.

When persecution rose against the Christians in Bulgaria (1948), numerous pastors were arrested as spies, and Rev. Keshishian was among those arrested. Many of the arrested were kept in jail for years, while their families were left without support. Some of the imprisoned Christians just disappeared without a trace, but Rev. Keshishian's life was miraculously saved. In 1966 he moved to France, where he served the church of Alforville and later worked for the Monte Carlo radio station's religious broadcasts. In 1992 he returned to Bulgaria and undertook the pastorate of the church. He served until his death on November 22, 1995.

At present her daughter, Mrs. Josephina Keshishian and her twin grandsons, Harry and Joseph Keshishians serve the church and the community. The church currently has 97 members. There is an active youth group of 11 members. The Sunday School has 16 children.

Plovdiv has the largest concentration of Armenians in Bulgaria – about 10,000 out of the estimated 25,000 Armenians living



in Bulgaria, including the new immigrants from Armenia.

Economic conditions in Bulgaria are depressed, as the country has not yet recovered from the impact of the change from conditions under communism to a free market society. There is need for much spiritual and physical support. Many Armenian families live below the poverty level.

The Armenian Martyrs' Congregational Church of Havertown, PA has adopted the Armenian Evangelical Church in Plovdiv as their sister church. They support the church through their missions committee and the AMAA. The needs in Bulgaria, however, are great and our prayerful and financial support is essential. □



Mrs. Josephina Keshishian pictured with AMAA Field Director and her twin grandchildren, Harry & Joseph.



The congregation of the Armenian Evangelical Church of Plovdiv.

AMAA Supports Victims of “Armavia” Disaster

Andy Torigian, Executive Director of the Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA) visited the President of the Republic of Armenia Robert Kocharian, while he was in Armenia early June. Mr. Torigian expressed the condolences of the AMAA for the recent crash of Aramavia Flight 967, which claimed 113 Armenian lives. He also offered to enroll the children of those who perished in the AMAA Orphan and Needy Children’s Sponsorship Program. President Kocharian appreciated AMAA’s gesture and thought this would be a major help to these families. The AMAA’s Orphan and Needy Children’s Sponsorship Program currently supports over 2800 children and their families in Armenia and Karabagh. The cost for sponsoring a child and family for one year is \$250. Anyone interested in supporting a child may contact the AMAA at 201-265-2607 or write to 31 W. Century Rd. Paramus, NJ 07652. □



President of Republic of Armenia Robert Kocharian greeting Andy Torigian, the executive Director of AMAA. In center is Rev. Rene Leonian, the AMAA Representative in Armenia.

Spiritual Corner

Let’s Keep Our Pledge

by Dikran Youmshakian

“O LORD Almighty, if you will only look upon your servant’s misery and remember me, and not forget your servant but give her a son, then I will give him to the LORD for all the days of his life...” (1st Samuel 1:11).

In a business environment such a statement may not make that much sense. Give me something Lord and I pledge to give it back to you. There is absolutely nothing gained in this “transaction”.

Here however there is a great Biblical lesson to learn.

When Jesus said, “ask and it will be given to you,” Jesus did not expect anything in return. He only expected that what is given to us should also be shared with others.

What is the gain? The gain is the joy of receiving and giving at the same time.

Unfortunately, most people appreciate the receiving part, and they try to ignore what follows. God made a pledge and He keeps His pledge. We do also make pledges when we approach God with a certain need. Do we keep our pledges?

Hannah’s story in 1 Samuel is typical. Hannah was barren and she desperately needed a child. She prayed to God pleading and pledging. God gave her what she asked for, and Hannah kept her promise. Following the Lord’s example she fulfilled her pledge and in so doing she gave the greatest gift one could give. She gave the dearest and the best – her son. Truly she gave him sacrificially.

What did Hannah earn from this “transaction”? She won God’s grace, and her name is in the Bible. Many others who unfortunately make and ignore similar pledges are not remembered, and they will miss God’s grace.

When we make a pledge to God, let us make sure that we keep it. □

Sergé Barseghian, Basso, Performs in AMAA Benefit Recital

The Armenia Summer Camp Committee of the Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA) presented its annual Spring Benefit Recital featuring the sensational Basso from Yerevan, Armenia Sergé Barseghian with renowned collaborator-pianist Evan Solomon, on Sunday May 7, 2006 at the Armenian Evangelical Church of New York.

Elbiz Baghdikian, chair of the Summer Camp Committee warmly welcomed the capacity audience and invited Mr. Andrew Torigian, the Executive Director of the AMAA to greet the audience and give the Invocation. In his greetings, Mr. Torigian gave a brief introduction about AMAA's mission in 22 countries. He indicated that each summer the AMAA reaches out to more than 10,000 children providing them physical and spiritual nourishment through the summer camp programs and Daily Vacation Bible Schools in Armenia, Karabagh and Georgia, and that "100% of the proceeds of this event will support these camps and Daily Vacation Bible Schools."

Sergé Barseghian's Recital made a tremendous impression on the capacity audience with his magnificent Basso voice and excellent diversity of compositions chosen for the program.

Having taken into consideration that the Recital was taking place in a church, the Program appropriately began with two religious compositions, "Panis Angelicus" by Franck and Xerxes aria from Handel's opera "Xerxes." These selections were followed by Leporello's aria from Mozart's "Don Giovanni" and King Fillipo's aria from Verdi's opera "Don Carlos," both of which displayed Sergé's beautiful large, full, rich and velvety voice produced with a fluid and effortless vocal technique.

The songs by Massenet and Schumann were followed by Tanielian's "Oorin" (The Willow Tree) and Ganachian's "Yeraz" (Dream), aptly dedicated to the coming celebration of "Mother's Day." The artistic nuances and soft sweetness of this huge voice, now tempered to suit the proper volume level necessary for these expressive



The artists with Summer Camp Committee members: (l to r) Pianist Evan Solomon, Louisa Janbazian, Elbiz Baghdikian, Vocalist Sergé Barseghian (Basso), AMAA Executive Director Andrew Torigian, Pianist Lucy Ishkanian, Ida Gueyikian, Marie Manougian, Rose Torigian, Adrienne Talanian and Janet Avakian (Missing from photo) Committee members Marie Alberian, Rosemarie Ashbahian, Elizabeth Aynilian, Lily Ann Babigian, Ann Chalemian, Helen Eberle, Rosemarie Goulian, Lucy Janjigian, Seta Nalbandian, Carol Goulian Stewart and Marilyn Voskian.

songs, conveyed to the audience the depths of emotion felt by the artist, resulting in a rare overwhelming musical experience, bringing tears to many eyes.

The second half of the Recital proved to be even more expressive and exciting, as one selection followed the other; they were all "highlights."

With Tchaikovsky's Romance "Not the Only One Who Knew" and Aleko's aria from Rachmaninoff's opera "Aleko," Sergé Barseghian was truly in his element. Through his expressive multi-colored voice, the powerful tensions of Rachmaninoff's words and music were interpreted with great mastery.

And then, with equally great ease and obvious enjoyment, he uplifted the audience, going from the dark and moody Russian music to the very entertaining popular aria, Anatevka's song "If I Were a Rich Man," from "Fiddler on the Roof." It was performed with such superb acting ability and clear, perfect enunciation, that the jubilant audience broke out in a burst of resounding long applause. His artistic versa-

tility again was revealed in the popular audience favorite songs, Gershwin's "Embraceable You," "Catari" by Cordillo and "Granada" by Lara to the immense pleasure of the audience, giving a soothing balance to an artistically difficult and serious program.

The concluding group of Armenian songs, Komitas' "Mayr Araksi" and Melikian's "The Rose," followed by a powerful and passionate rendition of Komitas' "Hayastan," brought the cheering audience to a rousing standing ovation, placated by three encores.

At the end of the Program, Elbiz Baghdikian thanked the members of the Summer Camp Committee who worked so hard for several months to organize this Concert and the lovely reception that followed. She specially thanked Pianist Lucy Ishkanian, who was instrumental in introducing the artists to the AMAA and at the same time sponsoring the whole program with her husband, Hagop Tankian.

A truly memorable afternoon, one of the major musical events of the year. □

\$195,000 Raised at AMAA Orphan and Child Care Luncheon on May 6th

The Crystal Ballroom of the Beverly Hills Hotel was the setting of the AMAA Orphan Care luncheon honoring the founders of the AMAA Orphan Care Committee- Joyce Abdulian, Elizabeth Agbabian, Hermine Janoyan, Grace Kurkjian, Mary Najarian and Savey Tufenkian. These women initiated the important work of the Orphan Care Committee after the earthquake in Armenia. Currently, the Orphan Care Committee has grown to include 30 active committee members.

Over 400 were in attendance as luncheon co-chairs, Paulette Geragos and Leslie Kevorkian, welcomed the crowd to this year's event celebrating "Children Helping Children." A very special devotional and prayer was presented by Dr. Lisa Karamardian at the start of the event. The tribute to the initiators and founders of the Orphan Care committee was given by Joyce Stein, the national Co-Chair of the AMAA Orphan and Child Care Committee and a dedicated supporter of the work of the AMAA. Since its inception in 1989, this committee has helped raise thousands of dollars and organized functions which support the orphans and needy children in Armenia. After lunch, Maro Najarian-Yacoubian described the work of the committee that helps orphanages, schools, orphan children living with relatives, and handicapped children in Armenia, and presented a video which showed the conditions under which some of these needy children live in Armenia. Some young adults who had visited the orphanages and camps in Armenia gave their testimonials about the important work of the AMAA and challenged the audience to continue to support the children of Armenia by donating \$250 to become sponsors. One of the dynamic speakers, Ariana Tatoulian, delivered her moving message in Armenian and the audience responded by sponsoring 55 orphans at \$250 each child per year.

After a delicious dessert, a spectacular children's fashion show was presented by the event co-chairs, Paulette Geragos and Leslie Kevorkian. More than 35 children walked



The Children's Fashion Show

down the ramp with great big smiles on their faces as their parents and grandparents looked on with great pride. With the closing of the silent auction, Gayane Tatoulian and Lori Muncherian announced that the proceeds from the silent auction this year surpassed everyone's expectations. "We are very pleased that the silent auction was a tremendous success", said Jean Keligian, one of the committee members who helped coordinate the silent auction.

The West Coast Co-chairs of the AMAA Orphan Care Committee, Linda Kay Abdulian and Arsine Phillips thanked all the ladies of the committee who had worked so diligently for so many months to make this event a success. The guests left the luncheon with their gift bags which were donated by Jessica Vartoughian of Jessica Cosmetics, Leslie Kevorkian of Tama Trading Company, Linda Kay Abdulian of National Raisin Company, Juan Juan Salon, and Ribbon



(l to r) Arsine Phillips, Paulette Geragos (Luncheon co-chair), Leslie Kevorkian (luncheon co-chair), and Linda Kay Abdulian.

Craft. Some lucky guests took home the beautiful centerpieces which were donated by Z's Garden Custom Floral Studio in Glendale. The generous donations of many contributors makes it possible to continue to support many needy children in Armenia. Elizabeth Agbabian and Savey Tufenkian, two of the honorees, expressed their gratitude to the generous benefactors and donors who contribute to this event and make it possible to continue to support the needy children in Armenia. □

AMAA Sunday Visits

“Take the gifts that God has blessed us with and, in turn respond to God’s love by sharing our talents and resources to benefit our less fortunate brothers and sisters.” This was the message the AMAA Field Director shared with AMAA members and friends as he visited Armenian Evangelical Churches in North America.

On April 30th Mr. Dikran Youmshakian visited the Armenian Martyrs' Congregational Church in Havertown, Pennsylvania. Accompanying him on this visit was Mr. Tigran Melkonian, the supervisor of the AMAA Sponsorship and Scholarship Program. They were welcomed at church with the introductory words of Mrs. Diane DeMirjian, Chair of the Stewardship and Missions Committee who also gave a brief history of the AMAA. The Field Director gave two inspiring sermons.

During the fellowship hour after church, people sat down to watch two video tapes on AMAA supported programs. While the AMAA’s work is worldwide, these videos focused on the schools in the Middle East and Child Care programs in Armenia.

On the weekend of May 5th – 8th, the Field Director visited the Armenian Evangelical community in Detroit, Michigan. He worshipped at the Armenian Congregational Church of Southfield, Michigan where after two sermons in English and Armenian, a banquet was held in the fellowship hall.

Likewise a report was given to the congregation describing the general ministries of the AMAA and two video presentations related with children's programs. An informative question and answer session gave more highlights on AMAA worldwide services. During his stay in Detroit, the Field Director also visited many AMAA members, friends and potential donors.

On Sunday, May 21st, the Field Director visited the Ararat Armenian Congregational Church in Salem, New Hampshire. During the preceding days, New Hampshire and especially areas around Salem had seen much rain which has caused flooding and



AMAA Sunday Luncheon at the Armenian Martyrs' Congregational Church of Havertown, PA



AMAA Sunday Luncheon at the Armenian Congregational Church of Southfield, MI

damage. The church basement was flooded too. Fortunately, by Sunday, the water was gone and people were able to gather in church for worship and luncheon in the basement hall. Likewise during church and afterwards, the Field Director shared the Word of God and news and reports on AMAA activities.

Armenian Evangelical Churches in North America are real partners in mission. Through their generous support and active participation, AMAA continues to serve the needs of people around the world. We thank our churches for not only observing AMAA Sunday but also encouraging their congregations to be active in mission. □

Physician to Retire after 64-Year Career in Medicine

Sarkis A. Telfeyan, MD, of Great Neck, NY, is retiring from medical practice on March 31st, 2006. Dr. Telfeyan is 90 years old and has been a physician since graduating from the University of Chicago School of Medicine in March, 1942, some 64 years ago. He has practiced in Great Neck since his discharge from the U.S. Army in 1946 (after service with distinction as a regimental surgeon during WW II). He has practiced medicine in Great Neck for the last 60 years. In 1968, he began 36 years of service as a Great Neck Public Schools physician and from 1981 until 2004, he was the Chief Medical Officer for the Great Neck Public Schools. He was responsible for all athletic physical oversight of the nursing services, and attended many high school football games to provide medical treatment in case of player injuries. In 1953, he was among the founding physicians of the North Shore University Hospital, in Manhasset, New York.

Dr. Telfeyan and his wife Elida have been married nearly 66 years and still live in the same house they moved into in August, 1948. They have four children, all graduates of the Great Neck Public Schools and South High School. Edward is an attorney in Sacramento; Bruce is a meteorologist at Offutt AFB, Nebraska; Lael is an MSW and New York University Ph.D. candidate; and Daphne is an attorney in Manhattan. They have five grandchildren: Brad, a first lieutenant in the US Army JAG Corps; Keith, a masters' degree student in film in Manhattan; Jennifer, a Zoo Ranger in Houston; Phil, a first year law student at Harvard; and Chloe, a freshman at La Guardia HS of Music & Art and the Performing Arts in Manhattan. Elida has been a community activist and PTA leader. Dr. Telfeyan served as Chair of the Board of Elders and Deaconesses at the Community Church of Great Neck and Elida and all four children sang in the church choir. Always active in the American Armenian community, he served as a Vice Chairman of the Armenian Missionary Association of America for three years. For the past 44 years, he has served

as president of the Telfeyan Evangelical Fund, leading the philanthropic mission of the fund to help Armenian scholars seeking advanced education.

Back in 1942, when Dr. Telfeyan began his medical career, polio was rampant, there were no vaccines for chicken pox, mumps, measles, german measles, or hepatitis. Penicillin was not yet readily available to the public, and the average life span of an American was 15 years shorter than today. During World War II, he served in the European Theatre with the 1st Army as it advanced from the beaches of Normandy to deep into Nazi Germany. He was a part of the relief of besieged City of Bastogne during the Battle of the Bulge. Following the war, when Sarkis and Elida moved to Great Neck, it was quite different a town from the way we know it today. Northern Boulevard's Miracle Mile had not yet been built and Kings Point had large areas of undeveloped land. Among Dr. Telfeyan's notable patients were Andrew W. Cordier, Undersecretary General of the United Nations and later President of Columbia University; pro-golfer and two-time US Open Champion Julius Boros, two of whose children he delivered; and Fidel Castro's young son, who had been whisked off to



Dr. Sarkis and Elida Telfeyan at his 90th birthday celebration at the Jolly Fisherman in Roslyn

Queens to live with an aunt during the Cuban Revolution—before Castro sided with the Soviet block. It wasn't until after "Fidelito" returned to Cuba following the revolution that Dr. Telfeyan learned the true identity of the young man.

Dr. Telfeyan is most proud of several aspects of his medical career including mentoring and serving as a role model for many young people who followed his lead into the medical profession. He is equally proud of his care for the underprivileged, less well-to-do members of our society. In the more simple, less regimented days of medicine, he always tried to adjust his fees to what he thought his patients were capable of paying. He continued making house calls for many years after the medical profession had ceased to do so. As he leaves behind an active medical practice, he is filled with great optimism of a healthier future not just for Americans, but for the entire world. □



AMAA 87th Annual Meeting

Please note and mark your calendars.
The 87th Annual Meeting and the related activities of
the Armenian Missionary Association of America
are scheduled for October 13-15, 2006
at the AMAA Headquarters in
Paramus, NJ
Details will follow!

Elizabeth Agbabian and Arpiar & Hermine Janoyan Honored

Two members of the AMAA Orphan and Child Care Committee from the West Coast were recently honored.

On May 13rd, 2006, Mrs. Elizabeth Agbabian, founding member of the AMAA Orphan & Child Care Committee, was honored receiving the Ellis Island Medal. This year along with 100 honorees of different ethnic backgrounds, six individuals of Armenian descent were included. Mrs. Agbabian was one of the six Armenians honored. She was recognized for her commitment to the welfare of Armenians especially in Armenia after the earthquake of 1988. Her services and support reached to thousands of orphaned and needy Armenian children. Mrs. Agbabian is active in many organizations including the AMAA, the Armenian Assembly, AGBU, Haigazian University Women's Auxiliary of Los Angeles, Charlotte & Elise Merdinian Armenian Evangelical School, and the Armenia Women's International Association.

On Sunday, May 21, 2006, the Saint Nerses Shnorhali Medal of Honor was bestowed upon Mr. & Mrs. Arpiar and Hermine Janoyan. This recognition and reward was presented on behalf of His Holi-



Elizabeth Agbabian

ness Karekin II, Catholicos of all Armenians, by Archbishop Hovnan Derderian, Primate of the Western Diocese. The award came in appreciation of their services to Armenian communities, including their faithful service through the Diocese of the Armenian Apostolic Church. Mr. and Mrs. Janoyan are also faithful members and supporters of the Armenian Missionary Association of America. Mrs. Janoyan was one of the founding members of the AMAA Orphan and Child Care Committee. She is also active in the AGBU, in the Ladies Auxiliary of Haigazian University, Merdinian School, Ferahian School and Ararat Home. Mrs. Janoyan was also a founding member of the Armenian Consulate in Los Angeles.

The AMAA Board and the members of the Orphan and Child care Committee congratulate the honorees for this deserving tribute. □



Mr. and Mrs. Arpiar and Hermine Janoyan

Hagop Loussarian Appointed AEUNA Administrative Director

The Board of Directors of the Armenian Evangelical Union of North America (AEUNA), appointed Mr. Hagop Loussarian as its Administrative Director, a position which was created during the AEUNA's April 26th meeting.

Hagop Loussarian's field of community service of over forty years has extended from Lebanon, to Armenia, and to California. He has served on various board and committees of churches, schools and social agencies. He has worked with distinction as principal of schools in Lebanon and California.

Mr. Loussarian has accepted this new position of Administrative Director on a voluntary basis. □



It's Happy 100th for the 'Last Rose in Our Orchard'

Helen Paloian of Chicago, IL, who as a child survived near-genocide in her Armenian homeland, celebrated her 100th birthday on Sunday, June 11, 2006, with family and friends at St. Gregory the Illuminator Armenian Church, 6700 W. Diversey, Chicago, IL.

The grandmother of six and great-grandmother of four attributes her longevity to prayer, exercise and no smoking or drinking. "I walk around the block," she said. "I read the Bible. I sing. My voice is still young. I always say there is a hope. Hope and pray!"

Helen has been a supporter of AMAA for many years. □



BOOK SERVICE PROGRAM

BOOKS

AN OLIVE BRANCH FROM LEBANON, by Hosanna Allen. The story of a young woman's journey of faith as she comes to know the Lord's abundant love. pb. 190 pp No. 291 \$12.00

ARMENIAN CHRISTIANITY, by Aharon Sapsejian, The Faith of a Nation. 143 pp., pb, No. 252 \$10.00

ARMENIAN FOOD, by Irina Petrosian. Fact, fiction & folklore. 243 pp., pb, No. 322 \$25.00

ARMENIAN HISTORY TIMELINE, by Hagop & Marilyn Arshagouni, 52 pp., hc, No. 289 \$15.00

ARMENIAN NEEDLELACE AND EMBROIDERY, by Alice Odian Kasparian, A photographic collection of more than 100 priceless specimens (a third in color), 127 pp, hc. # 120 \$15.00

THE BENEFITS AND CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE ARMENIAN EVANGELICAL CHURCH TO THE ARMENIAN NATION (in English & Armenian), by Rev. Dr. Vahan Tootikian, 190 pp, hc, #295 \$20.00

THE BURNING TIGRIS, by Peter Balakian. The Armenian Genocide and America's response. 475 pp, hc, # 306 \$26.95

BLESSINGS IN BITTER CUPS, by Rev. Giragos H. Chopourian, Ph.D., Tragic, yet triumphant story of a small clan of successful working class Armenians, living in Turkey, just prior to the outbreak of World War I, 250 pp, hc. # 305 \$20.00

CLAWS OF THE CRAB: GEORGIA AND ARMENIA IN CRISIS, by Stephen Brook, 354 pp., hc. # 237 \$25.00

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DAYS OF TRAGEDY IN ARMENIA, by Henry H. Riggs. An American Missionary born in Ottoman Empire, gives a first hand account of events in Kharbert during the Genocide, 220 pp, pb, # 267 \$25.00

FAMOUS EVENTS AND PEOPLE IN THE ARMENIAN CHRISTIAN HISTORY, (in Armenian), by Rev. Dr. Vahan Tootikian, 320 pp, hc, # 302 \$30.00

THE HERITAGE OF ARMENIAN LITERATURE, VOLUME I, From the Oral Tradition to the Golden Age 388 pp., hc, # 288 \$35.00

IN OTHER WORDS, by Rev. Peter B. Doghramji, Ph.D., Selected Sermons and Meditations, 391 pp, hc, #310 \$20.00

PIONEER ARMENIAN EVANGELICAL CLERGYMEN IN AMERICA AND THEIR SUCCESSORS FROM 1880-1950, by Rev. Dr. Vahan H. Tootikian, 304 pp, hc, # 314 \$35.00

REV. DR. MOVSES B. JANBAZIAN - MAN OF VISION WITH A MISSION, Depicts the life and excerpts from the works of Rev. Janbazian, the past Executive Director of the AMAA. 278 pp., hc. #304 - Complimentary a donation may be sent.

SURVIVAL OR REVIVAL - Ten Keys to Church Vitality, by Carnegie S. Calian, 150 pp., hc, No. 278 \$16.95

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NAZAR THE BRAVE - (Children's book) A Satire Legend, by Hovhanness Toumanian, Translated by Arshavir Mkertich (in English & Eastern Armenian) - Քաջ Նալար՝ Յովհաննէս Թումանեան, pb., # 315 \$15.00

ARMENIAN BIBLES

1600TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ARMENIAN ALPHABET REFERENCE BIBLE (pb, white - medium size) #13x \$20.00
(hc, black - medium size) #13y \$25.00
(Leather, black & white - medium size) #13z \$30.00

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SERPAZAN BADMUTUN, (Children's Bible) # 155b \$10.00

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NEW ARARAT EASTERN ARMENIAN NEW TESTAMENT (Soft-Cover, # 13l \$10.00

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Հայց. Աւետարանական Եկեղեցիի Հիմնադրութեան 160-ամեակին Առիթով

Վեր. Դոկտ. Վահան Յ. Թութիկեան*

Ընթացիկ տարւան Յունիսի 1-ին՝ Հայց Աւետարանական Եկեղեցիի հիմնադրութեան 160-ամեակն է։ Աշխարհասփիւռ Հայ Աւետարանական եկեղեցիներ եւ կազմակերպութիւններ արդէն սկսած են տօնել այս կարեւոր տարեդարձը թէ՛ տեղական եւ թէ՛ շրջանային մակարդակի վրայ։ Իսկ հաւաքական տարողութեամբ՝ յոբելինական սոյն տարեդարձը պիտի տօնուի Մայր Հայրենիքի մէջ Սեպտ. 14-17-ին, շարք մը իրերայաջորդ գործունէութիւններով։

Սեպտ. 14-16-ի օրերուն պիտի գումարուի եռօրեայ համահայ-աւետարանական համագումար մը Երեւանի մէջ, որ իր տեսակին մէջ առաջինը պիտի ըլլայ Հայաստանի մէջ տեղի ունեցող։ Սոյն համագումարը հովանաւորութիւնը կը վայելէ Հայ Աւետարանական Համաշխարհային Խորհուրդին, որուն պիտի մասնակցին խորհուրդը կազմող հինգ եկեղեցական միութիւնները, Ամերիկայի Հայ Աւետարանական Ընկերակցութիւնը եւ Ստեփան Փիլիպոսեան Հիմնարկը։

Ինչպէս նպատակադրուած է, Համագումարը պիտի հանդիսանայ Հայց. Աւետարանական Եկեղեցիին ապագայ ուղղութիւններուն անդրադառնալու եւ անոնց մասին գործնական առաջարկներ ընելու դիպուկ պատեհութիւն մը։ «Հայ Աւետարանական Եկեղեցիի Ապագայ Ուղղութիւնները» գլխաւոր բնարանին ներքեւ պիտի ըլլան հետեւեալ եօթը նիւթերը. ա. Ս. Բանին Քարոզութիւնն ու Հայց. Աւետարանական Պաշտամունքը։

բ. Երիտասարդութիւնը եւ Հայց. Աւետարանական Դաստիարակութիւնը։

գ. Աստուածաշնչական եւ Քրիստոնէական Կենցաղավարութիւն Հայց. Աւետարանական Եկեղեցիէն ներս։

դ. Հայց. Աւետարանական Եկեղեցւոյ Ինքնութիւնը -- Մեր ազգային -- եկեղեցական ժառանգութեան Պահպանումն ու Մշտնջենաւորումը։

ե. Հայց. Աւետարանական Եկեղեցւոյ Ապագայ Առաջնորդութիւնը։

զ. Հայց. Աւետարանական Եկեղեցւոյ Վկայութիւնն ու Ծառայութիւնը - Աւետարանչութեան «Ի՞նչ»ը, «Ի՞նչու»ն եւ «Ի՞նչպէս»ը։

է. Հայց. Աւետարանական Եկեղեցիին մէջ Միութեան գաղափարականը եւ Համամիութենական Յարաբերութիւններ։

Յիշեալ եօթը նիւթերուն համար նշանակուած են եօթը գեկուցողներ, որոնց պիտի յաջորդեն խորհրդակցական պահեր։ Բաց աստի, մասնակցող իւրաքանչիւր եկեղեցական հինգ միութիւններու եւ երկու կազմակերպութիւններու ներկայացուցիչները պիտի տեղեկագրեն իրենց ուրոյն գործունէութիւններուն եւ ապագայ ծրագիրներուն մասին. Առիթ պիտի տրուի նաեւ ներկայ գտնուող եկեղեցական

եւ աշխարհական պատուիրակներուն հակիրճ ելոյթներ տալու՝ իրենց կազմակերպական աշխատանքներուն մասին։

Համագումարի երեք օրերուն տեղի պիտի ունենան մշակութային եւ գեղարուեստական յայտագիրներ։ Հինգշաբթի, Սեպտ. 14-ին, Գալիֆորնիայէն յատուկ հրաւերով մասնաւոր գրական-գեղարուեստական յայտագիրով հանդէս պիտի գայ Սփիւռքահայ հռչակաւոր քանաստեղծ Ժագ Յակոբեան։ Սեպտ. 15-ին, հայրենաբնակ տաղանդաւոր երաժիշտ պատանի-պատանուհիներ ելոյթ պիտի ունենան հովանաւորութեամբ Հանրապետութեան Առաջին Տիկին Քոչարեանի։ Իսկ Շաբաթ երեկոյ, Սեպտ. 16-ին Հայաստանի Հայ Աւետարանական Եկեղեցիներու մանկապատանեկան տաղանդաւոր խումբերու կողմէ պիտի ներկայացուի գեղեցիկ գեղարուեստական յայտագիր մը։

Կիրակի, Սեպտ. 17-ին, կ.ա. ժամը 10:00-11:30 տեղի պիտի ունենայ յոբելինական միացեալ պաշտամունքը եւ կ.ե. ժամը 5:00-7:00 պաշտօնապէս պիտի տօնուի Հայց. Աւետ. Եկեղեցւոյ 160-ամեակի յոբելեանը՝ հովանաւորութեամբ Հայ Աւետ. Համաշխարհային Խորհուրդին եւ մասնակցութեամբ եկեղեցական եւ պետական ներկայացուցիչներու։

Սեպտ. 18-25 Սփիւռքահայ Աւետարանականներու հոծ խումբ մը պիտի այցելեն Հայաստանի տեսարժան վայրերը, որմէ ետք աւելի փոքրաքիւ խումբ մը պիտի այցելէ Արցախ (Ղարաբաղ)։ Իսկ Համաշխարհային Խորհուրդի ղեկավարութիւնը Սեպտ. 18-19 օրերուն պիտի մասնակցի Հայաստան-Սփիւռք Երրորդ Խորհրդաժողովին։

Հայ Աւետարանական համաժողովի եւ ուխտագնացութեան կողքին, Հայ Աւետ. Համաշխարհային Խորհուրդը պիտի գումարէ իր երկամեայ լիանիստ ժողովը, որու ընթացքին նաեւ տեղի պիտի ունենայ Դիւանի ընտրութիւնը։

Բաց աստի, Խորհուրդը պիտի գումարէ մամլոյ ասուլիսներ, պիտի կատարէ պաշտօնական այցելութիւններ եւ պիտի մասնակցի գրական շնորհահանդէսի մը 160-ամեակի առիթով։

Ինչպէս անցեալին, այս առիթով եւս կ'ուզենք հաստատել, որ Հայց. Աւետարանական Եկեղեցիի 160-ամեայ յոբելինական հանդիսութիւններուն նպատակն է.

Ա. ԶԱՍՏՈՒԱԾ փառաբանել Հայց. Աւետարանական Եկեղեցիին 160 տարւան կեանքին, վկայութեան եւ վաստակին համար, ու վերագտնել եւ իւրացնել հիմնադիր հայրերուն ու մայրերուն սկզբունքները եւ նուիրումը։

Գ. Նուիրուիլ նոր եռանդով ու թափով Հայց. Աւետարանական Եկեղեցիի տեսիլքին եւ առաքելութեան։

Դ. Շնչտել ու զօրացնել Հայ Աւետարանական Եկեղեցիներու մէկութեան եւ միասնականութեան ոգին։ □

*Գործադիր Տնօրէն՝ Հայ Աւետ. Համաշխարհային Խորհուրդի

Shant Keledjian

Shant Keledjian was born in Ontario, Canada on July 18th, 1986. He left behind a loving father George, a loving mother Diane, brothers Paul and Eric, a sister-in-law Nancy, paternal grandmother Sara Keledjian, maternal grandmother Yolande Taylor. Numerous aunts, uncles, cousins and many friends.

As an example of one of his generous spirit, while watching on TV the Armenian earthquake devastation as a very young child, Shant heard that children were hungry and orphaned and it deeply affected him. One evening after his dad came home from the Armenian Community Center where he had been helping in the relief efforts, Shant brought his dad his piggy bank and said, "Dad give this money to the Armenian kids who need it" This spirit continued all through his shortened life.

Shant was an inquisitive, intelligent child. He attended L.R. Green School where he won many academic awards. Later he went to San Pasqual High School and graduated in 2004 earning many honors including the Governors Golden State Award for Mathematics.

Shant had been attending college and had just recently changed his major from business to psychology and was thinking about someday being a psychology Professor. He was an avid student of human behavior, studying people but never in an obvious or judgemental way. His favorite pastimes were playing and listening to music, (he played the drums, guitar, bass guitar and even a little violin) enjoying the company of others and traveling.

Shant did everything with passion, creativity and love. His smile and energy always lit up a room. He described himself in a poem he wrote by himself at about the age of 12.

*Shant is Weird, vivacious, funny and smart
Brother of Paul and Eric
Lover of Canada, drums and roller-coasters
Who feels happy, hyper and hungry
Who needs sunshine, snow and a DW drumset
Who gives love, happiness, and encouragement
Who fears clowns, sock-puppets and mimes
Who would like to see a mass grave of the IRS
Who lives in Escondido, California.*

Shant Keledjian 19 years young, will live in the hearts and memories of his loved ones forever. In his memory, a special memorial endowment fund was established at the AMAA to sponsor orphan children in Armenia. □



Lillian Moranian

Lillian Moranian of Winchester, Mass., formerly of Livingston, N.J., age 77, died Monday, May 1st. She was born in North Bergen, N.J., to Hagop Jay and Merin (Kharajian) Norian, both originally from Aintab, Turkey.

In 1946 she graduated from Weehawken (N.J.) High School, and three years later was married to the late Dr. Thomas Moranian. Frustrated that she had not been able to attend college, she became a pioneer in the continuing education movement. A suburban housewife and mother, she took the SATS in 1962, and applied to college, which was rare for married women at that time, and enrolled at Drew University in Madison, N.J.

She was proud of her Armenian heritage. As a young woman, she was chief editor of the 1956 cookbook, *Favorite Recipes of Armenian Memorial Church* (Watertown, Mass.). She and her husband were longtime benefactors of the Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA) and its humanitarian programs. They supported many children through the AMAA since the 1960s and, in addition, established several AMAA endowment funds.

Morianan was a volunteer at the National Association of Armenian Studies and Research as well as the Armenian Library and Museum of America. She also served on its Board of Directors. Lillian was also active in many non-Armenian community and church related organizations.

In her later years, she joined the Parish of the Epiphany Episcopal Church in Winchester, Mass., and was a devoted participant in its meditative "Centering Prayer" program. She also served on the church's outreach program. For years she sent religious readings and handwritten letters, containing her own researched commentary, every week to elderly parishioners who could no longer attend church.

Lillian Moranian is survived by her daughter Dr. Suzanne Moranian, son-in-law, Dr. DeVallon Bolles, and her granddaughters, Elizabeth and Alexandra, all of Winchester. She was predeceased by her sister, Elizabeth Mouradian, and is survived by her sisters, Mary Ayvazian of Lexington, Mass., Grace Bakamjian of Tulsa, Okla., and Siran Birbas of Stratford, Conn., along with many cousins, nieces and nephews. □



Lucy Mardian

Lucy Mardian, wife of former Phoenix mayor Sam Mardian, Jr., passed away peacefully at her home in Phoenix on May 5, 2006, surrounded by her loving husband of 63 years and her 5 children.

Lucy Mardian, formerly Lusnig Keshishian, was born in Cyprus on Oct. 6, 1920. Her family and the Mardians came from Hadjin, a small village in Historic Armenia. Her parents and her husband's parents knew each other then, but went separate ways. Lucy and Sam met in 1939 after the Keshishians travelled across the country from New York to attend an Armenian picnic in California.

Lucy was active in the First United Methodist Church, Goodwill Industries as President and Life Member, Phoenix Art Museum League, the Phoenix Symphony Guild, the Good Samaritan Hospital Auxiliary, North Phoenix Republican Women's Club, and Kiwanian of Valley of the Sun Kiwanis.

She is survived by her husband and five children, Sam III of Meyer; Jim of Paradise Valley; Carol Pickens and Doug, both of Phoenix, and Steve of Scottsdale, and five grandchildren.

Funeral services were held on Thursday at the First United Methodist Church. □



The AMAA Board of Directors and staff wish to extend their heartfelt condolences to the families of the following deceased friends whose names were submitted to us for publication in the AMAA News

- * **Zabel Almoyan**
Clarksville GA
- * **Sarah Bilezerian**
Providence RI
- Jeanette Derkazarian**
Mahwah NJ
- Ben Gastanian**
Fresno CA
- * **Ara Arthur Gelenian**
Mansfield MA
- * **Dikran Ghazarian**
Fairlawn OH
- * **Michael Der Hagopian**
N. Providence RI
- * **George Ishkhanian**
Haywood CA
- * **Zabel Kaldjian**
Wyncote PA
- * **Berg Paraghamian**
Bethesda MD
- * *Memorials designated for AMAA*

AMAA Armenia Summer Camp/Christmas Committee

Drive For Clothing

For Children in Armenia and Karabagh

The outfits will be distributed to children ages 8-15.
Your donations will bring much joy, warmth and comfort
To our children in Armenia and Karabagh.



Yes, I would like to provide clothing for our children in Armenia and Karabagh.

Enclosed please find \$_____ in lieu of clothing for
_____ children at \$10 per child.

Name _____

Address _____

Tel. _____ E-mail _____

(Please make tax-deductible checks payable to AMAA – earmarked for clothing)



New Clothing or tax-deductible donations in lieu of clothing may be sent to
AMAA at 31 West Century Road, Paramus, NJ 07652.

For more information you may call Louisa Janbazian at (201) 265-2607.

Armenian Missionary Association of America

31 West Century Road
Paramus, NJ 07652

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